

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 3 and cancel claims 6-19, without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter thereof. Claims 2-5 remain currently pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 2 and 5. The Examiner objected to claims 8 and 9 as informal; rejected claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement; rejected claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; and rejected claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,230,179 to Dworkin et al. ("Dworkin").¹ Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 2 and 5. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's objection and rejections.

Regarding the rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections of claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and second paragraph. However, to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended claim 3 to more properly define the present invention and to ensure proper sufficient antecedent basis. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 112 rejections to claims 3 and 4. Further, because claims 7 and 8 have been canceled, the Section 112 rejections of claims 7 and 8 are moot.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Dworkin. However, to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have canceled claims 6-10. The Section 102(e) rejection of claims 6-10 is therefore moot.

Regarding the claim objection

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's objection to claims 8 and 9 because of informalities. However, to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have canceled claims 8 and 9. The objection to claims 8 and 9 is therefore moot.

Conclusion

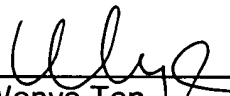
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request the timely allowance of the pending claims and issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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